

Spring drive, 'Militant' fund expand reach of paper, books

BY MARY MARTIN

The Socialist Workers Party's spring campaign to introduce the party, the *Militant* newspaper and books from Pathfinder Press to working people ends its third week with party members reporting on debates and discussions they're having about Washington's moves to protect its imperialist interests from Afghanistan to Iraq, Syria, Korea and Venezuela.

SWP members are also building May Day marches across the country against deportations and demanding amnesty for immigrants. And they're discussing how the stewardship of nature falls to the working class with people interested in the April 29 Climate March in Washington, D.C.

The drive is expanding the reach of the party's publications and increasing the number of workers involved in its activities. The drive runs concurrently with the Militant Fighting Fund to raise \$112,000 to cover the *Militant's* operating expenses, trips by worker-correspondents to cover breaking developments in the class

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SWP will keep right on campaigning across US

BY JOHN STUDER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "The SWP will continue to actively engage in politics, including running candidates within the law and in ways that maximize protections for contributors and supporters," Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party 2016 candidate for U.S.

REPORT ON FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION HEARING

president, told the press here April 20.

Kennedy was responding to the Federal Election Commission's refusal to extend the party's exemption from having to report the names of contributors who give over \$200 to its election campaigns. The Socialist Workers Party, she said, is "running mayoral candidates in New York City, Albany, Seattle, and elsewhere this year. We're taking our program, the *Militant* newsweekly, and books and pamphlets to workers and youth open to a working-class alternative to capitalist rule."

At a hearing, the SWP won the vote of

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Toilers pay as US gov't wars in Afghanistan, Syria grind on

BY JIM BRADLEY

A murderous Taliban attack on the Afghanistan government's military base in the province of Balkh April 21 dealt a blow to Washington's preparations for a spring offensive there. It also showed that any idea Washington's dropping what they touted as the 'Mother Of All Bombs' on Islamic State forces in Afghanistan or their missile attack on Damascus' Al Shayrat air force base two weeks earlier would cow opponents hasn't worked.

Coming on top of growing instability in Turkey, Washington's escalating involvement in Syria, and moves toward an independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan, the attack in Afghanistan shows the difficulties the U.S. rulers face as they try to impose imperialist "stability" on the toilers in the Middle East and Asia.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis made an emergency visit to Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, April 24 to assess the deteriorating situation there, where Taliban and Islamic State forces have

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Socialist Workers Party: Amnesty for immigrants!

All out for May 1 protests! No deportations!



Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights/E. Abreu Visuals

Chanting "Amnesty now, yes we can," hundreds marched in Washington Heights in New York City April 23 as part of actions promoting nationwide protests set for May 1. Marches, rallies and work stoppages are planned in scores of cities and towns coast to coast.

Mary Martin, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle, released this statement April 26.

All out on May Day! No to deportations! Amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S.! Join the fight to unify the working class and build our unions!

The propertied rulers in the United States need immigrants to maintain a superexploited layer of the working class to drive down the wages of all workers as they seek to bolster their profits and are driven to compete

more rapaciously in the midst of a worldwide crisis of capitalist production and trade.

That's why there are 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S. today. It's part of the normal workings of capitalism. But for the capitalists it's a two-edged sword. As Henry Ford once complained, "How come when I need a pair of hands in the factory, I always get a human being as well?"

Immigrant workers are just like

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Working class must lead fight to defend environment, labor

Thousands will join the March for Climate, Jobs and Justice in Washington, D.C., April 29, seeking to protest the increasing perils to life and limb, pollution of the soil, water and skies.

How the destruction of the environment is a consequence of the rule of

the capitalist class and the governments that serve them — Democratic and Republican alike — is addressed in this excerpt from "The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor." The statement was adopted by the July 2007 convention of the So-

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Washington seeks alliances to press imperialist interests in Pacific, Asia

BY TERRY EVANS

As one of Washington's nuclear submarines docked in Busan, South Korea, April 25, and the U.S. naval force led by the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson nears Korean waters, the U.S. rulers continue to seek allies to pressure the leaders of the Democrat-

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Workers at Cargill turkey plant in Virginia fight for union

Workers at NY Momenive plant rally for fired unionists

Spring Campaign to expand the reach of 'Militant,' books April 1–May 23 (week three)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	60	35	60	23
Atlanta	65	30	65	26
Chicago	80	42	80	25
Denver	25	13	25	7
Lincoln	20	13	20	11
Los Angeles	110	62	110	43
Miami	35	5	35	14
New York	135	61	135	42
Oakland	80	52	80	71
Philadelphia	50	20	50	12
Seattle	70	51	70	22
Twin Cities	50	17	50	17
Washington	50	26	50	15
Total U.S.	830	427	830	328
Prisoners	15	13		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	50	28	50	36
Manchester	45	27	45	20
Total U.K.	95	55	95	56
CANADA				
Montreal	40	13	40	19
Vancouver	30	13	30	8
Total Canada	70	26	70	27
New Zealand	40	19	40	14
Australia	35	23	35	15
Total	1,085	563	1,070	440
SHOULD BE	1,100	471	1,100	471

US Afghanistan war grinds on

Continued from front page
been expanding their reach. The attack three days earlier by a handful of Taliban forces disguised as Afghan soldiers, aided by inside help, killed over 140 Afghan soldiers coming from prayers. It was the deadliest Taliban attack in the 16-year war, raising a question mark over the combat effectiveness of the 700,000-strong Afghan army.

A U.S.-led NATO coalition ousted the reactionary Taliban government in November 2001. At its height, Washington had more than 100,000 troops there. Since the drawdown of most U.S. and other NATO forces in 2014, the Taliban has steadily regained territory, inflicting record casualties on civilians and troops.

U.S. Afghan commander Gen. John Nicholson has called for 3,000 more U.S. troops. There are currently 9,800 U.S. soldiers there.

Washington’s war in Afghanistan is

the longest in U.S. history, with devastating consequences for working people there. By the middle of 2016, the Watson Institute at Brown University reported, over 31,000 civilians have been killed in Afghanistan, and another 22,000 in Pakistan as the war spilled across the border.

The United Nations reports that 118,000 people were driven from their homes in Afghanistan from January to April of 2016 alone.

After the Soviet Union was asked by the then Afghan government to intervene and occupy the country in the 1980s, Washington cobbled together disparate Islamist forces to challenge them. When the disintegrating Soviet Union withdrew its troops in 1989, these forces fought each other. In 1996, the Taliban took Kabul and power. These Islamist currents also produced founding cadres for al-Qaeda and Islamic State. The Taliban offered refuge to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda.

Washington invaded in 2001 and has been bogged down ever since.

Turkish referendum

There is growing instability in Turkey following a contested razor-thin 51.4 percent victory for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in an April 16 referendum to alter the constitution to grant him stronger executive powers. The changes are supposed to take effect after presidential elections in November 2019.

The election took place under a state of emergency declared by Erdogan after a failed coup attempt last summer.

“Our ‘no’ side, which did not have the state resources of the “yes” side, registered a ‘partial victory,’” Ertugrul

Pathfinder booth at Erbil book fair attracts interest



Militant

For the first time Pathfinder Books of London participated in the Erbil international book fair in this capital of the Kurdish region of Iraq April 5-15. More than 100,000 people from Kurdistan, the rest of Iraq and elsewhere in the region attended. At its booth, above, Pathfinder sold nearly 500 books in English, Farsi and other languages. Next week’s *Militant* will run coverage on the book fair and conditions facing working people in the Kurdish autonomous region there.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

Kurkcu, Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) honorary president and member of parliament for Izmir told the *Militant* April 21. The HDP has wide support among Turkey’s large Kurdish population, which voted 60 percent ‘no’ on the referendum, he said.

“We are going to see a lot of instability in the next couple of years,” said Kurkcu. “A huge section of the population views the results as fraudulent because of the many voting irregularities and the repression. The HDP calls for annulment of the results and a new discussion in parliament.

“Also the economic situation is not bright with 13 percent officially unemployed, including 25 percent of youth,” he said. “Erdogan lost the vote in the industrial centers of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. His power base is shrinking.”

Since the state of emergency was imposed, Ankara has purged tens of thousands of teachers, judges and “dissidents” in both the public and private sectors. Thousands were jailed pending

trial on charges of “terrorism,” including popular HDP co-chair Selahattin Demirtas and 12 other HDP parliamentarians.

The day after Erdogan declared victory, President Donald Trump phoned to congratulate him. That same day the Turkish ruler extended the state of emergency.

Ankara is striving to carve out a bigger role in the conflicts in the region, especially because of advances in the struggles of the Kurds for independence. There are some 30 million Kurds spread across Syria, Iraq, Iran and Turkey. Roughly half the region’s Kurds live in Turkey.

Besides waging war against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in southeast Turkey, Ankara has sent its troops into northwestern Syria to block Kurds allied with Washington from linking up areas they control along the Turkish border.

Washington uses Turkey’s Incirlik Air Base for its bombing runs into Iraq and Syria against Islamic State.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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Amnesty Now! Stop the Deportations!
Fri., May 5, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 307 W. 36th St., 13th Floor. Tel.: (646) 964-4793.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester
It’s Not Who You Are Against But What You Are For. Speaker: Peter Clifford, Communist League candidate for Member of Parliament, Manchester Gorton constituency. Fri., May 5, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton Street, M1 2EH. Tel.: (0161) 478-2496.

THE MILITANT

Oppose US rulers’ use of death penalty!

Arkansas executes death row inmates using a sedative that has led to botched executions with prolonged torture in other states. The ‘Militant’ explains that in the hands of the capitalists the death penalty is a weapon to intimidate the working class and stifle our resistance to their rule.



AP Photo/P.Kissel

Opponents of death penalty rally in Arkansas state Capitol, Little Rock, April 17

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Jailed immigrants’ hunger strike won support in Wash.

BY CLAY DENNISON

TACOMA, Wash. — “Here they treat us worse than a prison. It’s supposed to be just detention for immigration, but it’s a prison,” said Cristian Lopez, speaking by phone from inside the Northwest Detention Center April 10 to a crowd of supporters outside the gates of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement prison. More than 100 prisoners began a two-week hunger strike that would grow to 750 by midweek and is now over.

The prison is owned and operated by the international GEO Group, the second biggest private-prison outfit in the U.S. The facility is one of the largest immigration prisons in the country.

“I am leaving already,” Lopez, who faces deportation, said. “I do this for my people and for the people that are still going to be here, be they dark skinned, light skinned or Hispanic, be they what they may. There is no other way for us, we are here supporting each other.”

A group called NWDC Resistance set up an encampment outside the prison during the hunger strike.

The detention center has an official capacity of 1,575, but prisoners who work in the kitchen say there are closer to 1,700 currently detained there, Maru Mora Villalpando, a leader of the group, told the *Militant*. The prisoners say that’s how many meals they prepare.

“When prisoners complained that the food was limited to little but rice and beans and that portions were being cut,” Mora said, “GEO authorities told them, ‘there are too many of you.’”

Striking prisoners are demanding more and better food, lower prices in the commissary, a raise in wages for work to more than \$1 a day, and im-

proved conditions.

Another important demand is that GEO stop placing obstacles in the way of prisoners’ legal efforts to fight against being deported. Access to the center’s law library is limited, as is access to the printer.

Temporary transfers to the Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Center in The Dalles, Oregon, are a big problem. “When you check out from the facility, GEO takes all your history from the computer,” Oscar Escobar said. When you come back, “you have to start over from zero.”

Mora said that in order to spread the word among the segregated units of the prison, male detainees asked her to talk about the hunger strike on the radio.



Militant/Clay Dennison

Supporters of immigrant hunger strikers at Northwest Detention Center camped out in front of prison in Tacoma, Wash., to win solidarity for prisoners’ fight against abusive conditions.

“That’s how the women found out about it,” she said. “Then they contacted us to say that some of them were joining the strike.”

Some prisoners told protesters

camped outside that ICE had promised to make some of the changes they’re demanding. “We want to make sure that whatever ICE promises them is followed through on,” Mora said.

Spring drive, ‘Militant’ fund expand reach of paper

Continued from front page struggle and to help subsidize subscriptions to prisoners.

This week the Militant Fighting Fund got a boost when Derek Jeffers reported that a group of workers in France had taken a \$450 goal for the fund.

Ruth Robinett described the discussion she and George Chalmers had with Mike Long in northeast Philadelphia. “I don’t think we should be bombing or sending soldiers to any other countries,” he said, referring to Washington’s assaults on Syria and threats against Korea. “They’re people just like us.”

Katy LeRougetel reports Communist League members in Vancouver, British Columbia, met Lili Motaghedi, a student at British Columbia Institute of Technology, when they knocked on her door April 22.

“We explained we’re campaigning against the U.S. military threats and buildup in the Pacific. Justin Trudeau, Canada’s prime minister, backs that, and Washington’s bombing of Syria too,” LeRougetel said. “The war against working people abroad is part of the rulers’ war against us here. Working people need our own voice, to speak in our own name.”

They also pointed to the example of Cuba for organizing society on a dif-

ferent basis, not dog-eat-dog capitalism. LeRougetel showed her *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. Motaghedi raided her piggy bank to pay for a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of the book.

Three Pathfinder books are each on special for \$5 when you get a *Militant* subscription — the one Motaghedi got, *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*, also by Barnes, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. They are also available in Spanish and French.

Socialist Workers Party members in Seattle attended a film showing at the University of Washington on the struggle of Hanjin shipyard workers in South Korea. In the discussion period Mary Martin, SWP candidate for Seattle mayor, thanked the film director and shipyard worker Jin Sook Kim for getting this story of working-class struggle out. “My party calls for U.S. hands off Korea and for a nuclear-free peninsula and we are taking this message to workers’ doorsteps,” she said. The panelists and others thanked her for her comments.

Martin also participated in a candidates’ debate. They were asked to hold up placards with “yes” or “no” to answer questions. When Martin was

asked questions that didn’t address the big issues facing working people, she held up her own signs — “U.S. hands off Korea,” “Amnesty for all immigrant workers living in the U.S.,” “All out for May 1,” “Support the silver miners on strike in Idaho,” and more. At the end of the meeting someone dropped a \$20 donation in the can on the SWP table.

Martin and other party members went knocking on doors in the White Center neighborhood south of Seattle. One of the three people who got subscriptions was a drywall worker originally from Mexico who also got a copy of the Spanish edition of *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* “See you at the May Day march,” he said.

Joanne Murphy and other SWP members from Washington, D.C., attended an April 9 rally of over 100 Cargill turkey plant workers and their supporters fighting for a union in Harrisonburg, Virginia. They met José Pérez, who picked up a copy of the *Militant*. They met him again when they went back April 23. Pérez got a subscription and sent an article on the fight to the *Militant*. (See On the Picket Line column.)

To join the party-building drive or to contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

<i>Militant Fighting Fund</i>			
April 1- May 23 (week 3)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Albany	\$4,100	\$630	15%
Atlanta	\$10,725	\$3,894	36%
Chicago	\$11,850	\$1,988	17%
Denver	\$750	\$305	41%
Lincoln	\$350	\$106	30%
Los Angeles	\$8,450	\$2,995	35%
Miami	\$3,200	\$700	22%
New York	\$16,600	\$3,873	23%
Oakland	\$13,700	\$6,000	44%
Philadelphia	\$3,600	\$81	2%
Seattle	\$7,300	\$2,203	30%
Twin Cities	\$4,100	\$267	7%
Washington	\$7,350	\$568	8%
Total U.S.	\$92,075	\$23,610	26%
CANADA			
Montreal	\$5,100	\$2,220	44%
Vancouver	\$3,000	\$75	3%
Total Canada	\$8,100	\$2,295	28%
NEW ZEALAND			
	\$4,575	\$2,170	47%
AUSTRALIA			
	\$1,175	\$725	62%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,450	\$240	10%
Manchester	\$925	\$430	46%
Total UK	\$3,375	\$670	20%
FRANCE			
	\$450	\$288	64%
Total	\$109,750	\$29,758	27%
Should be	\$112,000	\$48,000	43%

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To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8.

SWP will keep on campaigning

Continued from front page

a majority of FEC members to retain its exemption. Along straight party lines, the commissioners voted 3-2, with Republican appointees backing the SWP's exemption and Democratic appointees opposed. Four votes were needed to grant the extension, however.

The FEC decision "is a blow to working people and constitutional rights," Kennedy said in the FEC hearing room. "But the FEC decision *won't change what the Socialist Workers Party does.*"

Kennedy attended the hearing, along with the party's attorney Lindsey Frank, from the firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman, SWP national campaign organizer John Studer and Steve Clark, a member of the party's National Committee.

From the origins of the communist movement in the United States in 1919, the course of the SWP and its forerunners has been intertwined with the history of working-class struggle — in labor battles, opposition to Washington's imperialist wars, the fight for Black rights, the struggle to win and defend women's right to choose abortion, battles against deportations of immigrant workers, including its own members, and much more. It has explained the need for the working class and its allies to break from the bosses' two-party system and chart a revolutionary course toward workers power.

All this has put the party in the gun-sights of federal, state and local cops and spies from the outset.

From 1973 to 1987, the SWP conducted a successful 15-year-long political campaign and lawsuit against FBI and other federal government spying and disruption. This forced out many facts about the scope of government disruption efforts. Federal police agencies had amassed over 8 million documents on party members and activities, carried out at least 204 burglaries of SWP offices from 1960 to 1976 and paid some 1,300 informers to spy on the party.

This documented record was a powerful weapon in the SWP's fight to win exemption from reporting names of

contributors. Every time the FEC has reviewed the exemption, including this one, the party has submitted evidence of ongoing harassment of party members by the government, employers and rightist thugs.

FEC debate

Both the evidence and legal precedents — most of which result from battles waged by the SWP — support extending the party's exemption, said attorney Lindsey Frank at the hearing. "To do otherwise would set a new, overly harsh burden on anyone applying for exemption in the future."

"If not the SWP, then who?" agreed Republican Commissioner Caroline Hunter.

Commissioner Lee Goodman, also a Republican, described prior attacks on people's constitutional right to refuse to report the names of political associates. He recalled the victimization of *Monthly Review* editor Paul Sweezy in New Hampshire, as well as screenwriter Dalton Trumbo in Hollywood.

Goodman also pointed to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1964 decision rejecting as unconstitutional efforts by the state of Alabama to force the NAACP there to make public the names of its members, at a time of lynchings and brutal assaults on fighters against Jim Crow segregation. The victory in NAACP v. Alabama has been a foundation of the SWP's fight against disclosure since the 1970s.

"Do people still worry they can face harassment if they associate with the SWP today?" Goodman asked.

Those days are long gone, said FEC Chairman Steven Walther, a Democratic appointee who has voted against the SWP exemption twice before. It's his "impression," Walther said, that Democratic primary contender Bernie Sanders' ties to socialism "slid into the electorate easily." The "tenets" of the SWP and Sanders are much the same, he said.

"The SWP has a completely different outlook and activity," Frank replied. "They are for dissolution of the capitalist system, the establishment of a workers government. They point to the example of the Cuban Revolution. Their views are contrary to Senator Sanders."

But aren't they really sliding toward each other, Walther pressed. "How are your 'tenets' different?"

"It isn't an issue of 'tenets,'" Frank said. The SWP "has a unique political position 'outside the mainstream,' it meets all the legal requirements for an exemption."

"Well, what leads party supporters to fear government reprisal?" Walther asked.

"The SWP has a record of facing more than 70 years of reprisals, something well known in this country," Frank said. He pointed to documented reports that movements the SWP is active in today, such as fights against police brutality and to defend immigrants' rights, have been targets of police spying and interference.

"But these reports don't mention the SWP," Walther said.

"Yes, not so far. But think for a second," Frank responded. "It took a 15-year lawsuit and political fight for the SWP to force out evidence from decades of covert FBI spying and disruption. Must they do that again each time they apply to extend their exemption? That's one reason Supreme Court rulings clearly say minor parties need only a low threshold of evidence to win ex-



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president in 2016, campaigning last October. Federal Election Commission vote ending SWP exemption from filing names of contributors won't stand in way of party campaigning aggressively across U.S.

emption."

"That's right," Hunter said. "We don't need to delve into what level of harassment is enough. The case law says you only have to meet a low bar." Matthew Petersen, the third Republican appointee, agreed, saying court precedents require only "a reasonable probability."

"Well, I've voted to grant the SWP an exemption two times," Democrat Ellen Weintraub said. "But I did so with misgivings. I'm a strong supporter of disclosure. Now the evidence of harassment seems weaker."

Attacks on political space

Frank noted another factor, one that served as his closing argument in a third and final letter submitted to the FEC earlier that week.

"There is growing polarization in the U.S. today," Frank said. "There are attacks on political meetings like those at Berkeley and Middlebury. These create an atmosphere where people are more likely to fear they will face harassment if they don't have 'mainstream' political views and their political associations become known."

Frank pointed to a document the party attached to its latest submission, along with press coverage of recent attacks on free speech and political rights. In an April 8 affidavit to the FEC, Stephen Gabosch wrote: "John Doe informed me that, because of recent changes in the general political situation for the worse, he had decided to stop contributing money to the SWP. He said he has been particularly disturbed by recent violent attacks on public speakers on several college campuses, such as Middlebury, and especially in Berkeley."

The SWP's attorney added that there are also "numerous instances where prison officials have denied copies of the

Militant to inmate subscribers because of hostility to the SWP's ideas."

When the SWP's first exemption was affirmed by the Supreme Court in 1974, Weintraub said, Justice Thurgood Marshall pointed to evidence of "threatening phone calls and hate mail, the burning of SWP literature, the destruction of SWP members' property, police harassment of a party candidate, and the firing of shots at an SWP office," as well as the sacking of 22 SWP members from jobs due to their party membership. "There's nothing like that this time," she said.

"Those were the facts then, but that isn't the criteria set by that Supreme Court case or by rulings since then," Frank said. "You're arguing that you have to have lots of evidence of harassment to merit an exemption, but that just isn't what the decision says." What's more, he added, the FEC itself affirmed ongoing government and private disruption through 2013 in extending the party's exemption that year, and the SWP presented substantial evidence of continuing harassment in its 2016 petition.

"I plan to vote no," Weintraub responded.

The polarization pointed to by the SWP's attorney and underlined in its most recent letter to the FEC is important, Goodman said. In answer to Weintraub's remark that a meeting being shut down on campus isn't evidence of harassment of the SWP, he replied that "the perception created by such activity carries reasonable risk" that people considering contributions to the party may fear what could happen if their names become public.

Hunter moved the commission extend the SWP's exemption. The majority voted yes, 3-2. Weintraub moved the commission vote down the exemption. The majority voted no, 3-2.

SWP: 'The FEC decision won't change what the SWP does'

The following statement by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party 2016 candidate for U.S. president, was released April 20 at the conclusion of the Federal Election Commission hearing.

The Federal Election Commission decision today to deny the Socialist Workers Party's exemption from reporting names of campaign contributors is a blow to working people and constitutional rights.

As our request for an extension states, the FEC ruling is based on "an

unprecedented, dangerous standard" that gives a green light to government harassment and disruption of groups and individuals exercising our right to speak and act in opposition to the employing class and its political representatives in the Democratic, Republican, and other parties. The decision throws obstacles in the way of working people organizing political activity independent of the rulers and the increasingly unstable capitalist two-party system.

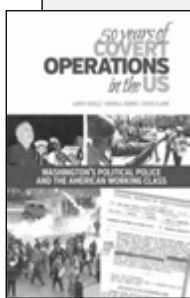
But the FEC decision *won't change*

Continued on page 5

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Workers at Cargill turkey plant in Virginia fight for union

HARRISONBURG, Va. — Workers in Cargill's turkey processing plant have no say over the conditions of work in our plant in Dayton. There are more than 1,200 employees between the two shifts, including Africans, Arabs, Hispanics, Asians, Russians and workers born in the U.S. It's the largest plant in this part of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, a center for the poultry industry, putting out 7.4 million pounds of product weekly.

Many workers are injured. The company commits many injustices against the workers. There is no seniority, so certain pro-company employees are treated as favorites. Unfortunately, the Hispanic supervisors are the most abusive.

Workers have become conscious and want to fight together to organize in a union and make change. This is the only hope for putting a stop to these modern-day pharaohs.

We are wearing the yellow union T-

shirts from United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400 on Fridays, and if there is no work Friday we wear them Thursday. When we started in February, there were five of us. Now more than 100 every Friday wear the shirt. I call it "Yellow Fever."

— José M. Pérez, a member of the union-organizing drive at Cargill

Workers at N.Y. Momenive plant rally for fired unionists

MECHANICVILLE, New York — Some 50 Momenive workers, their families and supporters attended a fundraiser here April 15 to defend the 26 workers fired by Momenive Performance Materials bosses while on strike over the past winter. The 105-day walk-out of some 700 unionists won widespread support from workers and unions across the region.

"Eleven of the 26 were fired on the picket line for supposed misconduct and 15 were accused of sabotage," Frank Izzo, a worker at the plant, told the *Mili-*



Guillermo Zalaya

Workers at Cargill turkey processing plant in Dayton, Virginia, wear yellow T-shirts each Friday to back union. At right is José M. Pérez, who wrote article on union drive for *Militant*.

tant. "The company is treating them as guilty until proven innocent."

Workers are wearing and displaying T-shirts, stickers, arm bands, posters and other items featuring the number 26, and the company is attempting to ban their display in the plant.

"The company policy is a violation of our right to union activity. We are defending those who have exercised their

union rights," said Shawn Mastropietro, chief shop steward in the plant. "Workers are still wearing the number into work, but the company is prohibiting it in the work area, claiming it creates a hostile environment."

"The company is trying to do everything possible to keep these workers from their jobs," said Dominick Patrignani, president of IUE-CWA Local 81359, which represents the majority of the strikers.

The New York State Council of Churches is giving its annual social justice award to the union workers. "We believe the Momenive workers show the highest ideals of the union movement," Rev. Peter Cook, executive director of the council, told the *Albany Times Union*. "Their efforts to keep sticking up for the 26 workers left behind is a welcome altruistic gesture in the 'me first' political environment in which we dwell."

Les Wheeler, who has worked at Momenive for 28 years, told the *Militant* that the company created the conditions that led to the strike in the first place. "They did not bargain in good faith," he said. "They wanted to break the union at all costs," but they were not able to do so.

Another event to support the fired workers is scheduled for April 30 at Chrome Food and Spirits in Waterford from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Donations can be sent to Save The 26 IUE-CWA 81359, P.O. Box 339, Waterford, NY 12188.

— Jacob Perasso

SWP: 'FEC decision won't change what we do'

Continued from page 4

what the Socialist Workers Party does.

The SWP will continue to actively engage in politics, including running candidates within the law and in ways that maximize protections for contributors and supporters. We're running mayoral candidates in New York City, Albany, Seattle, and elsewhere this year. We're taking our program, the *Militant* newsweekly, and books and pamphlets to workers and youth open to a working-class alternative to capitalist rule.

Today working people bear the brunt of capitalism's crisis of production and trade, as well as Washington's nonstop wars and military threats from Syria to Afghanistan to Korea. The U.S. government keeps up its economic war against Cuba's socialist revolution, its occupation of Guantánamo against the will of the Cuban people, and its assaults on the sovereignty of Venezuela and other nations whose governments are not obedient to its dictates. The profit-driven car-

nage for workers is spreading, as more and more of us can't find jobs, real wages decline, social rights such as Medicaid come under fire, and the bosses use their cops, courts, spies, and prisons to try to keep us in line.

Capitalist politics today is wracked by growing polarization. Washington seeks to set religious and political tests for the right to asylum. Muslims, Jews, and their places of worship face stepped-up attacks. Public opposition is mounting to expanded spy operations, from the FBI and National Security Agency to police red-squad use of informers. Freedom of speech and debate is under assault, including on campuses from Berkeley to Middlebury. All this increases concerns among some that association with the SWP will lead to harassment and victimization.

At the same time, there is growing interest in the Socialist Workers Party among working people. Since the origins of the communist movement in the U.S. soon after the Bolshevik Rev-

olution 100 years ago, the SWP and our forebears have been a target of the bosses, their political and immigration cops, and their anti-union, racist, and rightist thugs. That's because our party is blood and bone of the class struggle. And that's also why it has been the SWP that has won important milestones in the fight against government spying and disruption.

I want to thank Michael Krinsky and Lindsey Frank of the internationally known constitutional liberties firm, Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, who have provided invaluable legal help in defending our political rights for well more than half a century.

And we thank all those who sent us reports of threats, harassment, and attacks on SWP candidates and their supporters. These reports — along with the extensive evidence of government and right-wing spying, harassment and disruption we have forced into public view — are the bedrock of our ongoing fight.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 8, 1992

MIAMI — More than 200 people, mostly Cuban-Americans, called for an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba in an April 16 protest here.

The Torricelli Bill, which is before Congress, would prohibit trade with Cuba by subsidiaries of U.S. corporations abroad, impose sanctions on other countries that do business with Cuba, and limit remittances from Cuban-Americans.

A representative of the Association of Workers in the Community, which together with the Antonio Maceo Brigade organized the picket line, said that the demonstrators oppose both the Torricelli Bill and any other restrictions on travel or exchange with Cuba.

Ricardo, a hotel worker, said his family lives in Villa Clara, Cuba. "I'm here because Cuba must belong to Cubans, not to the Americans," he stated.



May 8, 1967

MAY 1 — In Atlanta yesterday, Martin Luther King delivered a strong rebuttal to General William C. Westmoreland's attack on the antiwar movement. Speaking from the pulpit of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, King described Washington as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

King declared, "there is a very dangerous development in the nation now to equate dissent with disloyalty. This was clearly pointed out by the fact that General Westmoreland was brought back to this country to develop a sentiment and consensus for the further escalation of the war and to further silence dissent."

King reiterated that it was inconsistent for him to teach nonviolence in the civil rights movement, and support the violence of the United States "against little brown Vietnamese women and children."



May 9, 1942

The government perspective of drawing 4,000,000 women into war industry by 1943 brings up questions concerning protection of working class rights. First consideration naturally falls upon equal pay for equal work.

The National Association of Manufacturers has declared itself in favor of equal pay for men and women on the same job.

Since almost the entire bulk of women now entering industry goes in as unskilled labor and hence, according to employer conceptions, is worth an absolute minimum in wage-rate, it is reasonable to assume that NAM will have only one objective: to scale the wage of the male worker down to that of the female.

These developments pose the problem of the unionization of women workers, an extremely crucial question for the whole union movement.



"Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party."

— Farrell Dobbs

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Asia-Pacific conference in Philippines calls for end to US gov't policies targeting Cuban Revolution

BY RON POULSEN
AND JANET ROTH

MANILA, Philippines — “There is a common misconception that, because the United States and Cuba have re-established diplomatic relations, the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba has ended. But it’s still in place,” said Ibete Fernández, Cuba’s ambassador to the Philippines. She was addressing participants in the Eighth Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Solidarity with Cuba, held here April 8-9.

The 120 delegates from 19 countries discussed how to advance the international campaign demanding that the U.S. government end its economic war and subversive programs against the Cuban Revolution and get out of Guantánamo, Cuban territory occupied by the U.S. military for more than a century.

Later during the conference, Fernández spoke to the victory won in 2014 when Washington freed the remaining three of the five Cuban revolutionaries who had spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons because of their actions to protect Cuba from violent attacks by U.S.-based counterrevolutionaries.

“If one day the U.S. blockade ends,” she said, “it will be thanks to the Cuban Revolution and to your efforts. If we were able to win the fight for the return of our five heroes, then you and we will win this fight too.”

Delegates represented organizations active in solidarity with Cuba from across Asia and the Pacific. Several dozen participants were from the Philippines. Others came from Japan, South Korea, North Korea, China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, East Timor, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as from the United States. Special guests included two other ambassadors to the Philippines, Capaya Rodríguez from Venezuela and Mun Song Mo from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The event, initiated by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), was hosted by the Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association and the Philippine-Cuban Friend-



Opening session of Asia-Pacific Conference of Solidarity with Cuba April 8 in Manila. From left: Bimal Rathnayake of Sri Lanka; Sounthone Sirisack of Laos; Maria de Fatima Correia of East Timor; Pham Van Chuong of Vietnam; Cuban Ambassador Ibete Fernández; Philippine Health Minister Paulyn Rosell-Ubial; conference co-organizer Francisco Nemenzo; Marta Rojas of Cuba; ICAP Vice President Alicia Corredera; Nilotpal Bose of India; conference co-organizer Antonio Paris.

ship Society. A third Cuba solidarity committee here, Amistad, which is led by supporters of the Communist Party of the Philippines/National Democratic Front, did not endorse the conference.

“We meet every two years to renew our support for Cuba and coordinate our efforts in defense of its socialist revolution,” said Francisco Nemenzo, chair of the conference organizing committee, in opening the meeting. Nemenzo, president of the Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association, is a former president of the University of the Philippines and a well-known socialist here.

‘Fidel inspired Filipinos like us’

He paid tribute to Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, who died last November. Noting the deep impact the 1959 Cuban revolutionary victory had on radicalizing youth at that time, Nemenzo said, “Fidel Castro inspired Filipinos of my generation to question what our elders took for granted. If the Cubans were able to stand up to U.S. imperialism, why couldn’t we?”

Since U.S. forces seized the Philippines from Spain in 1898, Filipinos have fought against U.S. domination and the pro-imperialist regimes supporting it,

but why haven’t these led to a successful socialist revolution? he asked. “Of course, there can be no revolution without the participation of the masses. But we must also recognize a historical fact. For a movement to make a revolution, it must produce leaders like Fidel Castro and Lenin.”

The Cuban delegation to the conference included Alicia Corredera, ICAP vice president for Asia, Africa, and the Mideast, and Yexenia Calzado, also of ICAP’s Asia department. It was headed by renowned revolutionary journalist and writer Marta Rojas.

In 1953 Rojas, then 23 years old, reported from the trial of Fidel Castro and other revolutionaries who had attacked the Batista dictatorship’s Moncada garrison in Santiago de Cuba. In 1965 she was the first Latin American war correspondent to visit freedom fighters in southern Vietnam during Washington’s war in Indochina, and she has returned to Vietnam several times since its liberation from U.S. domination in 1975. Her articles and books on these and other historical events are well known in Cuba.

Speaking for the Cuban delegation, Rojas thanked conference participants for their work in defense of the Cuban Revolution over the past two years since the last Asia-Pacific regional gathering, held in Hanoi. She reported that Cuba solidarity groups are active in 20 countries across Asia and the Pacific, and in 153 countries worldwide.

U.S. economic war against Cuba

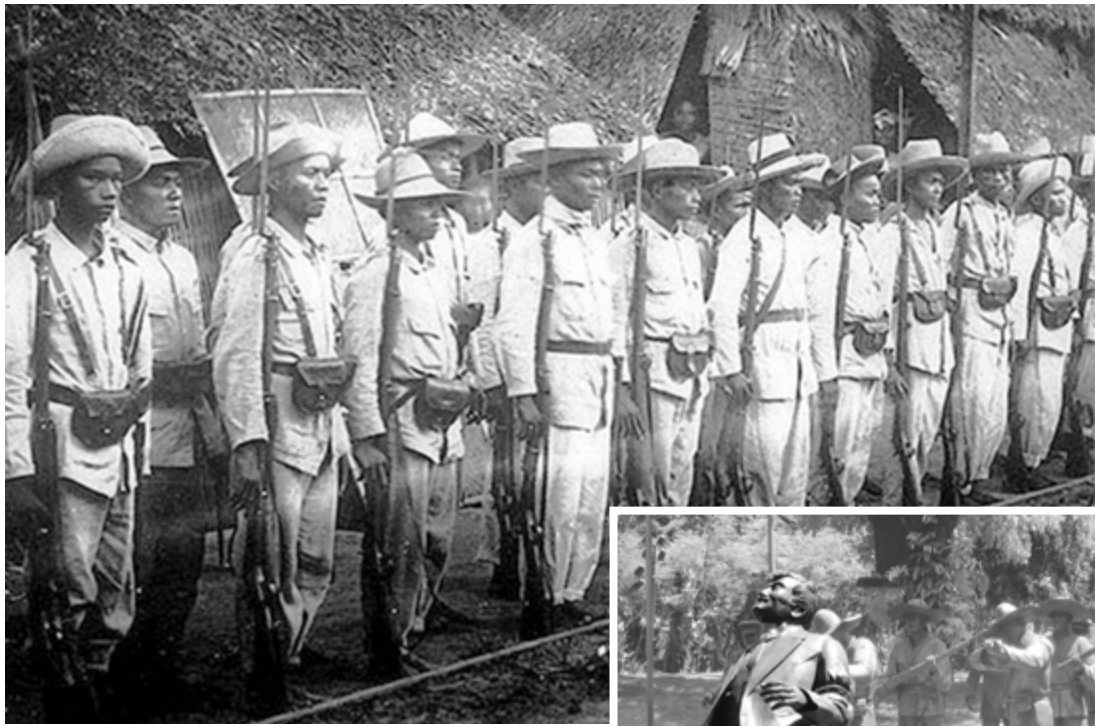
Rojas emphasized that today the work to defend the Cuban Revolution must be “focused on the fight for the lifting of the U.S. economic, commercial, and financial blockade against Cuba, for the return of the illegally occupied territory in Guantánamo, and against the U.S. government’s political subversion programs.”

The Cuban government “will always be willing to negotiate with the United States, but as equals, and will never make concessions on matters that affect its sovereignty and independence,” she said. The Cuban people and its revolutionary leadership are determined “to continue fighting

to maintain the political and social achievements of our revolution” and “showing our solidarity toward other countries of the world.”

She urged delegates to build participation in the upcoming May Day solidarity brigade in Cuba, as well as in an October 1-15 international brigade, called “In Che’s Footsteps,” in honor of Cuban-Argentine revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara on the 50th anniversary of his death in combat in Bolivia. Both brigades are sponsored by ICAP.

Later during the conference, Rojas thanked delegates for their tributes to Fidel Castro. She said that over the years, the imperialist media had “killed Fidel many times over” before he died of natural causes last November 25. That night, Rojas said, when she heard Cuban President Raúl Castro announce on national television that Fidel, at age 90, had died, “I told myself, ‘Fidel won!’” However many



After more than three centuries of Spanish colonial rule, independence fighters (above) declared Philippines a republic in 1899, but Washington seized the country. They then fought U.S. troops but were defeated by 1902. Right, memorial marking 1896 execution by Spanish soldiers of independence leader José Rizal, which conference delegates visited. Cuba and Philippines share history of struggle against Spanish and U.S. domination, said delegate Ana Maria Nemenzo, but “we continue to fight for our genuine independence” while Cubans won theirs by making a socialist revolution.



Francisco Nemenzo, president of Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association, left, and Cuban revolutionary leader and journalist Marta Rojas, who headed Cuban delegation at Manila conference. Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro “inspired Filipinos of my generation to question what our elders took for granted,” Nemenzo said.

times they tried, his enemies couldn’t kill him.

Concern about conflicts in Pacific

Of concern to delegates at the Asia-Pacific conference, reflected in informal discussions and in some comments on the floor, was recent U.S. diplomatic and military moves aimed at pressuring China and North Korea, as well as sharpening conflicts over Chinese military expansion in the South China Sea.

In his remarks at the closing plenary session, Nemenzo said protesting Washington’s hostile policies against the Cuban Revolution should go hand in hand with opposing U.S. moves to increase its military presence in the Pacific. At the proposal of one of the delegates from India, the conference agreed to include such a point in its final declaration.

Also underlying the informal discussions and activities at the Manila conference were divergent views among Filipino delegates of the Duterte administration elected last year. Rodrigo Duterte, former long-time mayor of Davao, the largest city on the Southern island of Mindanao, ran for president as an “anti-establishment” candidate, even calling himself a “socialist.” His no-holds-

barred verbal attacks on Washington, the European Union, NATO, the pope and other institutions of imperialist rule were popular. He promised to wage war on the criminal drug gangs, fight corruption, and take care of the poor.

Duterte’s antidrug campaign, marked by street executions of thousands of drug users and dealers by police and vigilante squads, has won support from broad layers of working people, even though many are disturbed by the extrajudicial character of the killings which have also been used to settle political feuds and personal grudges.

The government is also engaged in talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines and its New People’s Army on ending the Maoist/Stalinist group’s nearly 50-year-long guerrilla war.

Duterte’s foreign policy stances have been marked by anti-American and anti-imperialist rhetoric, seeking to play off Washington and Beijing against each other in order to win more space for Philippine ruling-class interests.

One of the keynote speakers at the opening plenary session was Philippine Health Minister Paulyn Rosell-Ubial. At Duterte’s insistence, after being appointed last year, she led a delegation to Cuba to learn about its public health system.

“The strength of Cuba’s health care is the human resources,” she said. “They have one doctor per 1,000 inhabitants. In the Philippines it’s one doctor per 33,000!” When working as a doctor in rural areas of the Philippines, Rosell-Ubial said, she had a workload of 120 to 150 patients a day. “I asked doctors in clinics in Cuba how many they saw. It is only 10 to 15 patients a day.”

In contrast with Cuba, where everyone has an annual medical checkup and there is a priority on preventive care, “here, 30 percent of Filipinos die without ever seeing a doctor,” she said.

The mayor of Manila, Joseph Estrada, hosted a dinner and cultural event for the delegates after the first day’s deliberations, with music and traditional dances.

Estrada was president of the Philippines from 1998 to 2001, and was later imprisoned on corruption charges in what he called a politically motivated conviction.

The mayor presented the keys of the city to Cuban

Ambassador to the Philippines Fernández, who is based in Malaysia. She reported later in the conference that the reopening of Cuba’s embassy in Manila is under discussion.

Winning broader solidarity

Following the first plenary session, the conference broke up into two commissions to discuss work in solidarity with Cuba more concretely. Discussions continued informally throughout, as delegates got to know each other, share experiences and debate broader politics.

One commission discussed strategies for developing regionwide solidarity with Cuba. The other focused on using the media to help get out the facts about the Cuban Revolution.

Robert Corpuz, president of the Philippine-Cuba Friendship Society and a graduate of Cuba’s Latin American Medical School, spoke in the first commission about recent events in Manila and other cities to “promote awareness of the truth about Cuba.”

In the Philippines “there is a glut of housing projects but people cannot afford them, they continue to squat in slum areas, river banks, or bridges,” Corpuz said. “Supermarket shelves are overstocked with food products yet many people go hungry. This is the real face of capitalism.” In contrast, he said, Cuba’s socialist revolution “has dignified the Cuban people” and is an example for working people in other countries.

Ana Maria Nemenzo, a member of the Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association, noted that Cuba and the Philippines shared a common history as former Spanish colonies. Both Filipinos and Cubans fought wars against colonial rule in the late 19th century, and “in 1898 we were robbed of our independence and transferred to U.S. colonial rule.”

“We in the Philippines continue to fight for our genuine independence,” she added. “But Cuba won its true independence by its revolution. We carry out activities to explain how Cuba gained its sovereignty and other achievements.”

Peter Weitzel, of the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society in Sydney, said it’s necessary to provide facts on how Washington continues its economic sanctions against Cuba. For example,

he said, funds were collected in Australia to send hurricane relief aid to Cuba, but because of U.S. embargo laws, the money was frozen by U.S. banks where it had been deposited. Delegates from other countries noted that in Asian countries many people are not aware that Washington occupies Cuban territory at Guantánamo and that is part of the educational work that is needed.

Tissa Vitarana, a delegate from Sri Lanka, spoke in the second commission about the role of social media and said that in his country there are more cellphones than there are people. Pal-lub Sengupta, from the All India Peace and Solidarity Organization, replied that while social media can be a useful vehicle, “digital media doesn’t reach most people who need to know about Cuba.”

Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, also spoke on this panel. “The U.S. government’s goal is not to ‘normalize’ its relations with Cuba,” she explained. If so, they would simply get out and leave Cuba alone. “When President Barack Obama announced the decision to restore U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba, he said Washington’s policies had failed to achieve their objective so it was ‘time to try something different.’”

“Normalization” for the U.S. rulers “simply means using new methods to achieve the same objective — undermining the socialist revolution,” she said.

At the closing session of the conference, Waters, who is president of Pathfinder Press, presented conference organizers with a donation of Pathfinder books, many of them about the Cuban Revolution, for use by Cuba solidarity groups there.

A delegate from South Korea, Seok Yeol Hur, reported that a delegation of Korean unionists and others will be participating in this year’s May Day march in Havana.

Hur said that “in Korea we combine the campaign to oppose the economic sanctions against Cuba with the campaign opposing the U.S. economic sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.”

Continued on page 9



Many delegates at Cuba solidarity conference in Manila picked up books from Pathfinder Press on Cuban Revolution, politics in the U.S. and other questions of working-class politics.

Example of Cuban Revolution for workers

Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End
Fidel Castro, Che Guevara
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Jack Barnes
Also in Spanish, French, Farsi
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Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer
Also in Spanish, Greek
\$20

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Working class must lead fight to defend environment, labor

Continued from front page

cialist Workers Party and printed in *New International* no. 14. It explains how the fight to prevent the profit-driven rulers' destruction of the environment is bound up with the fight by working people for political power.

An excerpt from the book is printed below. Copyright © 2008 by New International. Reprinted by permission.

Excerpt from New International

How social labor is organized to transform nature — to whose benefit, to what social and economic ends — depends on the class relations of production. It depends on which class rules, which class holds state power. A 1993 talk by Jack Barnes published in *Capitalism's World Disorder* addressed this fundamental point. "Environmental pollution is a social question, a class question," Barnes observed.

Workers must not fall into accepting the common view—that is, the bourgeois view — that the environment . . . is a "scientific" question, a "natural" question, that somehow hovers above classes and outside the class struggle. That is how many middle-class opponents of nuclear energy, and of nuclear weapons, for example, often present those questions. Many who call themselves environmentalists say the problem is "consumerism," or industrial development per se. But the workers movement has to explain the source of ecological destruction and why the answer lies along the revolutionary line of march of the working class. . . .

The working class must also reject all forms of fake science, exaggerations, catastrophism, and crankism. There is a decades-long record of such frenzied prophecies — the impending exhaustion of fossil fuels and other natural resources, the "limits to growth," and so on. These originate in sections of the bourgeoisie and are then picked up and prop-



Militant/Betsy Farley

Protest against open piles of oil refinery waste, called petcoke, at gate of KCBX Terminals along Calumet River in working-class neighborhoods of Chicago's Southeast Side in 2013. KCBX was forced to remove toxic piles in 2016, but shipments are now going to Kentucky and Virginia.

agated by petty-bourgeois reformers. They feed into the conspiracy nostrums that are floated in the working class and labor movement, taking workers' eyes off the true source of such social ills: the capitalists and their profit system. . . .

[I]f we translate everything commonly thought of as an environmental issue into how to advance the protection of the working class, and how the working class can extend that protection to all, then we can hardly ever go wrong. With that approach, we will increase the possibilities for concrete solidarity in fighting against ecological abuses and outrages.

The labor movement should expose the differential effects of pollution on the working class, including the even more devastating consequences for sections of the working class that are the poorest and most vulnerable, as well as those that are Black, Latino, or foreign born. . . . The workers movement must take the lead in actively exposing the destruction and dangers produced by capitalism and in organizing opposition to them.

This communist course, Barnes concludes, enables us to explain how "the sources of all wealth — land and labor — are increasingly the victims of the domination of capital. And, most importantly, why the working-class-led struggle for a so-

cialist revolution opens a way forward on this front as well."

As Cuban Gen. Armando Choy concludes in *Our History Is Still Being Written*, "Yes, a better world is possible. But only with a socialist revolution."

In the mid-nineteenth century some 85 percent of energy for human use was produced by burning wood, charcoal, and crop residue. Today some 85 percent of energy supplies comes from fossil fuels — primarily coal, oil, and natural gas. The production and use of these resources in pursuit of profits has always been detrimental not only to the health of the workers involved but simultaneously to the natural environment in which we live and labor.

A transition to other energy sources can and will be neither smooth nor rapid. The dog-eat-dog laws of rival capitals ensure that every "energy policy" implemented by corporations and bourgeois governments will serve the interests of maintaining capitalist rule — not the economic, social, and cultural needs of the earth's population, nor the health and safety of the workers involved. Communists oppose anti-working-class "solutions" promoted by big business and various bourgeois and petty-bourgeois reformers. We expose and counter their reactionary notion, for instance, that

"too large" a population of toilers — as well as too much consumption and too high living standards for many of them — is a threat to a "livable" world.

The capitalist rulers warn workers and farmers throughout the semicolonial world that they must forego the level of economic development and living standards existing in the imperialist countries — development achieved in no small part by super-exploiting the toilers and plundering the resources of these very same oppressed peoples. "The ecological consequences are unsustainable!" impatient toilers are scolded. This is another of finance capital's smoke-screens masking the reasons for the widening gap in economic, social, and cultural conditions between earth's great toiling majority, on the one hand, and, on the other, the bourgeoisie and professional middle classes in the imperialist centers and in the more economically advanced semicolonial countries.

In the United States and other imperialist countries, politicians and other bourgeois voices tell working people "we" must tighten "our" belts in order to stem environmental destruction. They tell us "we" must accept higher prices for fuel and other necessities, including regressive "carbon taxes" on gasoline, home heating oil, and commercial travel. "We" must recycle, turn off the lights, lower the thermostat, go without air conditioning, ride a bike, change our showerhead, join a carpool, flush the toilet less, plant a tree.

But there is no "we" that embraces both working people and those who grow wealthy off the exploitation of our labor: the ruling families and their rentier tagalongs among the middle class and professionals. Such "solutions" not only inaccurately place the blame on individuals and families and promote the sale of "green" and "organic" products and services at premium prices. Above all, they are part of the drive by the capitalist rulers to boost their profit rates at the expense of the working conditions, wages, living conditions, trade union solidarity, and genuine social security of workers and farmers, all of which have been under relentless assault since the mid-1970s.

New International no. 14 Revolution, Internationalism, and Socialism: The Last Year of Malcolm X

by Jack Barnes

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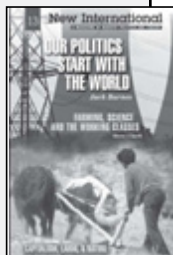
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New International no. 13 Our Politics Start with the World

by Jack Barnes

The huge economic and cultural inequalities between imperialist and semicolonial countries, and among classes within almost every country, are produced and accentuated by the workings of capitalism. **\$14.**

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US presses interests in Asia

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ic People's Republic of Korea to back off from further nuclear or long-range missile tests. President Donald Trump seeks collaboration with the rulers in Beijing to press Pyongyang and is promoting further United Nations sanctions aimed at punishing working people in North Korea.

Washington's threats and military maneuvers are not aimed at launching a new war on the Korean Peninsula — though, intended or not, they could precipitate one. They are part of decades of efforts by both Democratic and Republican administrations to come up with a solution that would force North Korea to back down.

INVALUABLE BACKGROUND ON KOREA

To get a clearer understanding of why working people and youth should oppose the U.S. efforts to make North Korea a pariah nation, the *Militant* is making it easier to access a three-part series on the history of Washington's assaults on the Korean people dating back to the U.S. occupation of the peninsula in 1945. The articles were written by Steve Clark in 2013. Now featured at www.themilitant.com.

The liberal bourgeois media has stoked war hysteria, talking up predictions of looming military provocations by the DPRK — like carrying out its sixth nuclear weapon test — during two recent national holidays there. Instead, North Korea marked the April 25 anniversary of the founding of its armed forces after the end of decades of Japanese colonial rule by deploying long-range artillery units for a live-fire drill on the coast.

The message? Any preemptive assault by Washington and its allies would mean a rapid response. Pyong-

yang has 10,000 artillery pieces capable of hitting Seoul — just 35 miles south of the border — and U.S. troop bases further south.

The U.N. Security Council will discuss North Korea April 28. Previous rounds of U.N. sanctions demanded Pyongyang give up its nuclear weapons, but said nothing about Washington's deployment of nuclear weapons on submarines, planes and missiles that can easily target Korea.

On top of the carrier strike group, Washington has led military exercises in Korea involving tens of thousands of troops, including practice “decapitation” of the North Korean leadership.

Japanese navy destroyers are currently staging drills with the U.S. strike group as it approaches Korean waters, while the South Korean navy conducts live-fire exercises with U.S. destroyers west of the peninsula. The air forces of the U.S. and South Korea are in the middle of the April 14-28 Max Thunder annual exercise, with over 100 warplanes conducting “precision strike drills.”

Decades of Washington's aggression

Washington's claims to be the injured party in Korea fall apart in the face of its more than 70-year division of the peninsula and aggression there. The U.S. rulers occupied Korea at the end of the second imperialist world war. U.S. troops drowned in blood widespread protests for independence across Korea.

They imposed the Syngman Rhee dictatorship on the people of the South and ultimately provoked a war with the North. U.S. warplanes carpetbombed the North and parts of the South, leveling the major cities down to the ground. Some 4 million people were killed during the war. Still their conquest of the North failed when Beijing sent 260,000 troops to aid Ko-



UN Photo

Peasants flee fighting Jan. 25, 1951, during Korean War. Washington divided Korea into North and South in 1945 against will of the Korean people, installing brutal Syngman Rhee dictatorship in South. During the war, U.S.-led forces carpet bombed the North and much of the South.

rean fighters and drive Washington's “United Nations” army back to the 38th Parallel. For the first time U.S. imperialism had failed to win a war. Washington refuses to this day to sign a peace agreement with the DPRK.

Washington seeks Beijing's help

Washington wants Beijing's compliance. China accounts for more than 90 per cent of all North Korea's foreign trade. Following speculation that China would agree to sanction oil sales, the North Korean government restricted fuel sales — prices rose and shortages were reported. Chinese backing for an oil embargo would have a serious impact on the DPRK, which gets almost all its oil from Beijing.

The Chinese rulers have urged Pyongyang to suspend its missile tests in exchange for an end to U.S. military maneuvers, a proposal U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley ruled out. Beijing's deeper concern

is preventing the collapse of the government of the DPRK, leading to Washington's troops being stationed on the Chinese border. Chinese President Xi Jinping called President Trump April 26 and urged Washington to exercise restraint while the two powers continue to seek a common way forward.

Tensions between Beijing and Washington continue over the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Aerial Defense system, a radar and anti-missile battery in South Korea. Protests broke out in South Korea April 25 when U.S. forces began moving components of the system to the former golf course where it will be set up.

Beijing sees THAAD as a spy station that violates China's sovereignty. It has restricted Chinese travel to South Korea in retaliation.

Asia-Pacific conf.

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Republic of Korea.” Washington's war moves target the Korean people on both sides of the U.S.-enforced border, he said, noting that the U.S. military has maintained thousands of troops in the South since the end of World War II.

The Final Declaration adopted by the Asia-Pacific conference called for carrying out actions, coordinated regionwide when possible, to demand that Washington end its economic sanctions against Cuba, its occupation of Guantánamo Bay, and its “regime change” programs against the Cuban Revolution.

The declaration paid tribute to Fidel Castro, stating, “This conference challenges the vain illusions of imperialist and other reactionary forces that the Cuban Revolution can now be reversed with the physical loss of Comandante Fidel.”

The delegates welcomed the news that Fernando González, one of the five Cuban heroes, has been named the new president of ICAP. They saluted the work of outgoing ICAP President Kenia Serrano in helping to “broaden and strengthen the international movement of solidarity with Cuba.”

It was announced that the Cuba solidarity movement in Nepal has offered to host the next Asia-Pacific gathering, to be held in 2019.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Amnesty for immigrants! All out May 1!

Continued from front page

workers already here — proud of their work and ready to fight against injustice and exploitation. And they bring with them their class-struggle experience, lessons of great value for their U.S.-born fellow workers.

Working people don't like deportations and raids. Over decades now they've gotten to know their immigrant co-workers, some with and others without papers. Polls released this week confirm what we see everyday — support for immigrants among workers is at the highest level in memory, no matter what party they voted for.

Depending on their production needs, the capitalist rulers sometimes open the immigration spigots to attract workers and sometimes try and close them down. Over the last couple decades, under Democrat and Republican alike, the U.S. government has stepped up moves to criminalize workers without papers. Roughly half of those in federal prisons today are workers whose only “crime” is meeting the needs of the capitalist bosses for cheap labor.

The fight against the victimization of immigrant workers is part of the rebirth of May Day as a day of united working-

class action.

Today only 6.4 percent of workers in private companies are in a union. That means the bosses are able to cut wages and benefits, speed up production to a back-breaking pace, violate the most elementary safety measures, and trample on the rights of workers almost with impunity.

There is only one way to turn this around: Organize the unorganized! To rebuild the unions, to have a fighting, militant union movement that can take on the bosses, workers need to say: “It doesn't matter where you were born, the color of your skin, if you have papers or not, what language you speak. Let's fight together.”

Fighting for amnesty for all immigrant workers in the United States is a life and death question for the unions and the working class.

The same ruling class that is wreaking carnage on working people, seeking to make us pay for their crisis, is waging war against workers in the Mideast and threatening Korea. It's a war at home and a war abroad.

With the relentless worldwide capitalist economic crisis, there will be more attempts to divide us — Black vs. white,

men vs. women, employed vs. jobless, “we” Americans vs. workers elsewhere. If the propertied rulers can't do this, they're in trouble — working people are the majority. That's why they are starting to fear us.

And there is an example we can look to for a future that has meaning. That's revolutionary Cuba, where workers and farmers overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship in 1959, took power and ruled ever since, offering international solidarity from Angola to Venezuela. We can take political power here and join workers worldwide to build a socialist future.

Join my party, the Socialist Workers Party, along this course. All out for May Day! Amnesty now! Stop the deportations! Organize the unorganized!

JOIN US ON MAY DAY!

The Socialist Workers Party will be joining May Day actions from coast to coast. Join us in winning new readers to the *Militant* and Pathfinder books and introducing the party to participants. See page 8 for the branch nearest you.